Mr. Grant Leitma, Sociology
Columbia Union College
7600 Flower Ave.,
Takoma Park, Md. 20912

2/1/90

Dear Mr. Leitma,

I've obtained about a third of a million pages of government records relating to the political assassination through FOIA litigation and, like anyone else, you are welcome to access to them. As a practical matter, you won't get very far with this much material without investing an enormous amount of time. I also have duplicate copies of some of these records in a subject file, under names, and you are welcome to access to that. You can also make copies.

You ask if you can videptape me, and of course you can, almost any time. As you can see from what is on the other side, I'm not able to be away much and am never out of Frederick except for medical needs. I suggest you phone first and I can tell you how to get here then. And how I am, what I'm up to.

However, I can't see myself conforming to what your outline tells me is what you teach. Please understand that I can't be helpful without frankness. I do not see any useful educational experience for your students coming from what you outline and I can see them finishing your mini-course (I don't know what that means) thoroughly confused and misinformed.

You are teaching a course without any knowledge of or reference to the basic literature or to the only worthwhile thing of which I know on VCR. I'm not trying to sell you books but I'll give you a glimmer by the list I'll enclose.

I think I know just about all the JFK assassination conspiracy theories and I don't know of one that has reasonable factual support or that I cannot debunk. You seem to be teaching these nutty theories with all the solid information that is available and of which you apparently know nothing.

My work advances no theories and is, rather, a study of how our basic institutions worked in those times of great stress and since then. I regard the assassination of a president as the most subversive of crimes in a society like ours and I think it is a disservice to approach it as a whodunit. Particularly because the crime itself was never really officially investigated, so there is no real beginning point for private persons to responsibly investigate.

I know of three professors to whom I refer you, but they are all busy and I cannot speak for them and tell you they will take the time to offer their opinion of your outline or provide copies of their outlines: Dr. Gerald McKnight, Hood College, Frederick, Md., 21701; Dr. David Wrone, History Department, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI, 54481; Dr. Gerald Ginocchio, Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C., 20930.

I see now that this is an elderhostel course and that you have much less time. However, my comments are, I believe, still applicable.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg